



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOURTH CO-DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a methamphetamine conspiracy.

Michael E. Sprague, 35, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge John T. Maughmer this afternoon.

By pleading guilty, **Sprague** admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine between Jan. 1, 2003, and March 31, 2004. Specifically, **Sprague** admitted that he purchased and distributed between 30 to 40 grams of methamphetamine.

Sprague is the fourth co-defendant to plead guilty in this case.

On Dec. 14, 2004, **Corey Blair**, 31, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Jan. 1, 2003, and March 31, 2004. **Blair** also pleaded guilty to manufacturing 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on June 30, 2003, and agreed to forfeit to the government including any proceeds derived as a result in the conspiracy.

On Feb. 2, 2005, **Scott Brewer**, 29, and **Dana Ardry**, 34, both of Kansas City-North, pleaded guilty to their role in the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine between Jan. 1, 2003, and March 31, 2004. **Brewer** also pleaded guilty to identity theft.

At the time of **Brewer's** arrest, Graves said, law enforcement officers found in his possession nearly 62 grams. **Brewer** also admitted that he used a means of identification of another person to cash numerous counterfeit checks at various retail stores. The total amount of the checks was approximately \$51,572.

Ardry admitted that he distributed methamphetamine on a number of occasions and allowed methamphetamine manufacturing to occur at his residence on two occasions in exchange for a share of the methamphetamine.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen D. Mahoney. It was investigated by the Kansas City Metro Meth Task Force, the U.S. Secret Service and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow